

To:
rrbrown@147thhillclimbers.org <rrbrown@147thhillclimbers.org>
Subject:
First (Vietnam) Unit Patch
Date:
Wed, 17 Apr 2019 02:32:43 +0000

Hello,

Regarding the three objects on the lower half of the first Vietnam unit patch. L. Thomas Elliston asked if a former member of the 147th remembered their meaning. Upon reporting to the 147th in September of 1966, I was given the patch along with this explanation:

The flower is a poor representation of the Cherokee Rose, the Georgia State Flower – white pedals with a yellow center – a wildflower. The tree is a depiction of the Georgia Pine. Finally, the “cow” is really a water buffalo found in Vietnam. Thus the depiction of the transit of the 147th Aviation Company from Fort Benning, GA then deployed to Vung Tau, Vietnam by ship in 1965 and thus becoming the first Chinook helicopter company stationed in the Mekong Delta. The unit was later designated the 147th Assault Support Helicopter Company, part of the 222nd Combat Aviation Battalion, and 1st Combat Aviation Brigade.

Hope this helps. Thanks for keeping the memory of our amazing unit alive.

NAME - Temporarily Redacted (I'll include the name after I get permission-Rodney R. Brown)

Below is the Georgia State Flower, AKA the Cherokee Rose



The flower on the patch is a “poor representation of the Cherokee Rose” is a real understatement. However, you have to understand something about military patches. They are only as good as the people who produce them. In the case of the Hillclimber patch in question it was a local Vung Tau Vietnamese tailor. In defense of the tailor I have to say that he or she was working off a picture drawn on a cocktail napkin. This is an interesting addition to the story of the first Hillclimber patch. Rodney R. Brown